IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 14 and add new Claim 16 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, now read as follows:

1. (Previously presented) An image processing apparatus for converting input color data to color component data, having a plurality of color component units, to be outputted by using a color conversion table, said apparatus comprising:

a first storage, arranged to store at least one compressed color conversion table, wherein data of the compressed color conversion table are arranged according to a sequential ordering of grid point numbers in each color component unit;

an expander, arranged to expand the compressed color conversion table;

a sorter, arranged to sort data included in the expanded color conversion table while a combination of output color components of a grid point is kept; and

a converter, arranged to convert the input color data to the color component data using the expanded color conversion table.

2. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a second storage arranged to store the expanded color conversion table.

3. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said converter converts color space.

4. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the color component data includes a black color component.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

an input section, arranged to input a command indicative of print instruction and data indicative of a print medium characteristic; and

a selector, arranged to select one of color conversion tables expanded by said expander in accordance with the data indicative of the print medium characteristic.

7. (Previously presented) An image processing method of converting input color data to color component data, having a plurality of color component units, to be outputted by using a color conversion table, said method comprising the steps of:

expanding a compressed color conversion table, wherein data of the compressed color conversion table are arranged according to a sequential ordering of grid point numbers in each color component unit;

sorting data included in the expanded color conversion table while a combination of output color components of a grid point is kept;

and

converting the input color data to the color component data using the expanded color conversion table.

8. to 11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously presented) A data processing method of compressing a color conversion table for converting input color data to color component data, having a plurality of color component units, said method comprising the steps of:

inputting data of the color conversion table where combinations of plural color component data are arranged by grid points;

sorting the data of the color conversion table so that the data are arranged according to a sequential ordering of grid point numbers in each color component unit; and

compressing the sorted color conversion table.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently amended) A computer program product storing a computer readable medium having computer program code for a data processing method of compressing a color conversion table for converting input image data to color component data, having a plurality of color component units, said product comprising process procedure codes for:

inputting data of the color conversion table where combinations of plural color component data are arranged by grid points;

sorting the data of the color conversion table so that the data are arranged according to a sequential ordering of grid point numbers in each color component unit; and

compressing the sorted color conversion table.

wherein the compressed color conversion table is expanded and used in a color conversion process.

15. (Canceled)

16. (New) A computer program having computer-executable instructions executable to process an image in accordance with the method of Claim7.